

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1227

(Montgomery County Delegation)

Environment and Transportation

Judicial Proceedings

Montgomery County - School Bus Stops on Highways - Alterations
MC 8-25

This bill alters existing requirements related to permitted locations of school bus stops in Montgomery County. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None; the bill only affects Montgomery County.

Local Effect: Montgomery County expenditures may be affected, as discussed below. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary/Current Law: Under current law, in Montgomery County only, a school bus stop may not be located on any highway with five or more undivided traffic lanes unless (1) a school crossing guard is posted at the school bus stop to assist students in crossing the highway or (2) a traffic control device that maintains a red signal while a student is boarding or exiting a school bus is placed at the school bus stop. However, these provisions only apply beginning December 31, 2026. The bill alters this provision by extending the start date of the requirement to December 31, 2028. In addition, the bill narrows the requirement to only apply to a school bus stop in Montgomery County at a location for which at least 400 citations were issued in the preceding fiscal year to drivers traveling in the opposite direction of the school bus stop.

Local Expenditures: The bill’s modification of the existing requirement that school bus stops may not be located in certain locations (*i.e.*, any highway with five or more undivided traffic lanes unless specific conditions are met) likely narrows the number of applicable locations and could reduce (as well as delay) county expenditures compared to the broader (and earlier) requirement under current law. Even so, for context, Montgomery County advises that to the extent school bus stops are unable to be moved, the county may need to hire as many as 13 crossing guards with estimated costs of more than \$500,000 on an annual basis.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Montgomery County; Comptroller’s Office; Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 20, 2025
km/jkb Third Reader - March 21, 2025
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